

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering
 (Atten: Mr. A. J. Tether)

SUBJECT: Assessment of Soviet ASAT Capability

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1. I appreciate the notification in your letter of 24 February 1982 about the tasking of the intelligence community currently underway for the subject assessment. We will, of course, fully support this effort, and our personnel already have begun working on the problem with other members of the Working Group.

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2. Time constraints may preclude a formally coordinated assessment of this issue; however, this year's National Intelligence Estimate, Soviet Capabilities for Strategic Nuclear Conflict (NIE 11-3/8-81), is in the final stages of production by the intelligence community. Portions of this Estimate deal with current and projected Soviet capabilities to interfere with US satellites, and should be used as a point-of-departure for this assessment. Drafts of NIE 11-3/8-81 are available to CIA and DIA personnel.

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3. The CIA point-of-contact for this assessment is
 Office of Scientific and Weapons Research

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/B. R. INMAN
 Admiral, U.S. Navy
 Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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